

# *Presenter Profiles*

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## *Kentucky Summit on Children*



The following individuals are among those who will serve as presenters during the Kentucky Summit on Children.

**Elizabeth Whitney Barnes** is manager of the Model Courts Division of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ). She has been with NCJFCJ as part of the Victims Act Model Courts Project with the Permanency Planning for Children Department since 2003. Through the Model Courts Project, Barnes works closely with courts handling child abuse and neglect cases nationwide to facilitate systems change by providing technical assistance, consultation, research and evaluation. She presents on the Model Courts Project at national conferences and is the author of "Back to Basics: Fundamental Application of the Resource Guidelines and Adoption and Permanency Guidelines in Child Abuse and Neglect Cases." She earned her juris doctor from the University of San Francisco School of Law.

**Suzette E. Brann** is president of Unlimited Horizons LLC, a criminal justice consulting firm that specializes in developing specialty court programs for addicted offenders in the United States and the Caribbean. Brann has presented at several national and international forums on therapeutic jurisprudence, prison reform, creating gender-informed and culturally proficient treatment, social service and criminal justice systems, developing restorative justice programs, disproportionate minority confinement and juvenile justice. Brann earned her juris doctor from the University of Baltimore School of Law where she specialized in intellectual property and corporate law. She is a member of the American Counseling Association, the National Association of Drug Court Professionals, Zonta International and the National Association of Black MBAs.

**Judge C. Douglas Chamberlain** serves as a judge for the Common Pleas Court, Domestic Relations, Juvenile and Probate Divisions, in Logan County, Ohio. Chamberlain is currently a member of the Ohio RECLAIM Advisory Committee, the Ohio Association of Juvenile Court Judges Department of Youth Services Task Force and the State of Ohio Juvenile Sex Offender Management Team Committee. He was recently named to the Ohio Supreme Court Task Force on the Code of Judicial Conduct. Judge Chamberlain earned his juris doctor from the Ohio Northern University Claude W. Pettit College of Law.

**Chief Judge Sara W. Combs** became the first woman and the first judge from the Eastern Kentucky counties of the 7th Appellate District to serve as chief judge of the Kentucky Court of Appeals. She assumed the role in 2004 after her colleagues on the court voted unanimously to elect her to the position as chief judge, which provides administrative oversight to the Court of Appeals. Chief Judge Combs also made history by being the first woman to serve on the Supreme Court of Kentucky when then Gov. Brereton Jones appointed her to serve on the state's highest court in 1993.

After she narrowly lost the election to retain her seat on the Supreme Court, Gov. Jones appointed her to fill a vacancy on the Court of Appeals in 1994. She was elected to the court in November 1994 and re-elected in 2000 and again in 2006. Judge Combs ranked second in her class at the University of Louisville Brandeis School of Law, which later honored her with a Distinguished Alumni Award. She also serves on the boards of Pikeville College, Lees College and the Kentucky Mountain Laurel Festival. She previously served for seven years on the Kentucky Appalachian Commission.

**Governor Ernie Fletcher** is moving Kentucky forward by changing the way Frankfort does business, including running government efficiently and providing world-class services to all Kentuckians. Under his leadership, Kentucky is leading the nation in Medicaid reform and turning our system into an efficient, cost-saving program without compromising care. Governor Fletcher's efficiency efforts guided Kentucky to a total surplus of more than \$650 million over the last two budget cycles.

Governor Fletcher's other accomplishments include signing into law some of the nation's toughest coal mine safety legislation, increasing teacher's salaries and providing the largest increases in education funding since KERA. He championed the first comprehensive tax plan in decades, which removed 500,000 of Kentucky's poorest from the tax rolls and provided income tax cuts for 78 percent of working Kentuckians. He has also focused on helping small businesses afford health care for their employees and today Kentucky is leading the nation in growth of employer-sponsored health care.

Through the work of his administration, the Kentucky Horse Park will host the 2010 World Equestrian Games. His administration also created Kentucky's new brand, Unbridled Spirit, leading to a 23 percent increase in tourism that topped \$10 billion for the first time. Kentuckians have much to look forward to as Governor Fletcher and his administration pursue the tools to expand Kentucky's high-tech energy economy and create jobs, expand access to affordable, high-quality health care to all Kentuckians, and provide affordable higher education through his Kentucky Covenant plan. Governor Fletcher believes that Kentucky's best days are still to come and that by working together, all Kentuckians can help make our Commonwealth a better place to live.

**Judge Charles D. Gill** of Connecticut Superior Court is an internationally known children's rights advocate. Judge Gill co-founded the National Task Force for Children's Constitutional Rights and the National Committee for the Rights of the Child. Presidents Bush and Clinton have honored him for his work. In 1989 he received the Justice Department's Annual Crime Victim's Award. He has spoken to more than 200 groups nationally and has addressed ambassadors to the United Nations on children's needs for constitutional protections. He has appeared on "Good Morning America" with Charles Gibson and Diane Sawyer, and he debated Janet Reno on the Elian Gonzales case on "Nightline" with Ted Koppel.

**Patricia J. Kempthorne** is founder and executive director of Twiga Foundation Inc., a nonprofit corporation dedicated to family consciousness at home, in the workplace and in the community. Twiga has contracted with America's Promise, The Alliance for Youth, to make children and families a national policy priority. As the first lady of Idaho from 1999 to 2006 and part of the Governor's Generation of the Child initiative, First Lady Kempthorne served as co-chair of the Governor's Coordinating Council for Families and Children and worked to establish the Office for Families and Children in Idaho.

Through her efforts, First Lady Kempthorne brought greater awareness to erasing the stigma of mental illness, breaking the cycle of child abuse and domestic violence, preventing underage drinking, and increasing the rates of immunization and literacy among the youngest Idahoans. She serves on the Leadership to Keep Children Alcohol Free Foundation, a coalition of governors' spouses, federal agencies, and public and private organizations dedicated to preventing the use of alcohol by children. In 2003 President Bush appointed her to the Advisory Commission on Drug-Free Communities, for which she served as co-chair.

**Chief Justice Joseph E. Lambert** was elected to the Supreme Court of Kentucky in 1986 to serve the 3rd Supreme Court District. He became Kentucky's fourth chief justice in 1998 through a vote of his fellow justices. He began a second four-year term as chief justice in 2002 and a third term as chief justice in 2006.

During his tenure, Chief Justice Lambert has focused on implementing cutting-edge programs in technology, court records, judicial education, justice facilities, pretrial services, promotion of women, and Family and Drug courts. As a result, the Kentucky court system is proving to be one of the Commonwealth's finest achievements. Chief Justice Lambert counts among his most significant accomplishments the 2002 passage of the amendment that made Family Court a permanent part of the Kentucky Constitution.

The Kentucky Department of Public Advocacy gave Chief Justice Lambert its Robert F. Stephens Public Service Award in 2006. In 2004, he received the Civil Rights Award from both the Northern Kentucky NAACP and the Lexington NAACP for his commitment to eliminating discrimination. He currently serves as board chair of the Judicial Form Retirement Plan and the Rockcastle Hospital and Respiratory Care Center in Mt. Vernon, Ky. He earned a juris doctor from the University of Louisville Brandeis School of Law, which gave him its Distinguished Alumni Award.

**Judge Paul Lawrence** is presiding justice of the Goffstown District Court in Goffstown, N.H., where he hears juvenile delinquency, Children in Need of Supervision or Services (CHINS), and neglect and abuse cases. He is a past chair of the Coalition for Juvenile Justice, which is the national leadership association of State Advisory Groups under the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974. He is co-chair of the New Hampshire Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative, past chair of the state's Committee to Study the Establishment of Dispositional Guidelines in Juvenile Delinquency Cases and a member of the New Hampshire Supreme Court's Judicial Education Services Committee. He began hearing juvenile cases in 1979 with a belief that the greatest cure for delinquency is maturation.

**Janiva Magness** is one of today's most talented and recognized blues and roots vocalists. Based in Los Angeles and a three-decade darling of the blues genre, her vocal prowess and performance are the best of the genre. She won the 2006 Blues Music Award for Contemporary Female Artist of the Year. Although her vocals are at times beautiful, this 50-year-old grandmother is best known for her sauciness and the bold, brazen beauty of her recordings and performances.

Magness was barely a teenager when she was consumed by the power and expression of rhythm and blues from the radio stations of her hometown of Detroit. Although singing has always been natural for Magness, her early life's path was not rosy. Early in life she lost both parents to suicide. Shortly after came 12 foster homes in two years. At 16, Magness became an emancipated minor with chemical dependencies and a teenage mother putting her baby up for adoption. Turmoil was a daily part of her young life.

At 14, Magness found salvation in the form of a blistering blues guitarist named Otis Rush. On a winter's night hitchhiking across Minneapolis, she ended up at the Union Bar and paid \$2 to get in the door. She explains "He just blew my mind. He made me feel things I didn't know what to do with. The music spoke to parts of me that had never been addressed. It opened up some other place in me, like letting oxygen into a sealed crypt for the first time." The enlightened teenager started hitting blues shows throughout the Minneapolis/Chicago/Detroit triangle. Magness started listening to and singing the blues for catharsis. After discovering she could sing not only for healing but to get paid, she went to work as a backup vocalist.

Magness replaced one habit for another and made a steadfast run at a life as a blues musician. In March 2006, Magness released her sophomore album for Northern Blues Music entitled "Do I Move You?" It is her seventh recording in a long list of critically acclaimed albums.

**Justice Mary C. Noble** was elected to the Supreme Court of Kentucky in November 2006 to serve the 5th Supreme Court District. Justice Noble began her judicial career in 1991 when she was elected circuit judge for Fayette County. She was re-elected to that office in 2000, where she served until her election to the Supreme Court. While on the Circuit Court bench, she served two terms as chief regional circuit judge.

Justice Noble is one of the founders of Kentucky Drug Courts and served as a Drug Court judge from 1996 to November 2006. She has been a member of the National Association of Drug Court Professionals Congress of State Drug Courts since its inception and has served as its president. She currently serves on the board of the National Association of Drug Court Professionals. She earned her juris doctor from the University of Kentucky College of Law.

**Dave Pelzer** is an individual who represents overcoming adversity. He has dedicated his life to helping others to help themselves. A former Air Force crew member, Pelzer played a major role in operations Just Cause, Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Pelzer's job entailed midair refueling of the once highly secretive SR-71 Blackbird and the F-117 Stealth Fighter. While on active duty, he was selected as California Volunteer of the Year.

Pelzer has received personal commendations from Presidents Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton and George W. Bush. In 1993, he was honored as one of the 10 Outstanding Young Americans. In 1994, he was the only American to be honored as the Outstanding Young Person of the World. Pelzer is also the recipient of the 2005 National Jefferson Award, which is considered the Pulitzer Prize of public service. Other recipients include Sandra Day O'Connor and Colin Powell.

He is the author of six inspirational books. Pelzer's books have been on the best-seller lists for more than 13 years combined. "A Child Called 'It'" alone has been on the New York Times Best Sellers List for more than six years. He is the first author to have four number one International Best Sellers and to have four books simultaneously on the New York Times Best Sellers List.

**Judge Stephen W. Rideout** is a retired judge who continues to hear cases for the district courts of Virginia. He is also a facilitator judge for Virginia's Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission. He consults on child welfare and juvenile justice issues with the American Bar Association National Child Welfare Resource Center on Legal and Judicial Issues, the Permanency Barriers Project of the ABA Center on Children and the Law, the National Drug Court Institute and with individual states. He is also a member of Virginia's Statewide Advisory Group regarding the Commonwealth's upcoming Child and Family Service Reviews.

During his 15 years as chief judge of the Alexandria Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court, Judge Rideout led a number of projects that significantly reduced the court's caseload and improved services and programs for children and families. He was lead judge of the Alexandria Pilot Family Court Project for the Commonwealth of Virginia and was a member of state task forces that addressed issues of juvenile delinquency, gangs and custody. He also worked on behalf of the Virginia's Court Improvement Program to improve systems collaboration regarding cases of abuse and neglect of children and termination of parental rights. Judge Rideout received the 2003 Health and Human Services' Adoption Excellence Award, the 2004 National CASA Judge of the Year Award, the 2005 Mitchell Wendell Jurist Award from the Association of Administrators of the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children and the 2006 Lettie Pate Whitehead Evans Award for Lay Leadership from the Virginia Theological Seminary.